

**MICHIGAN VEHICLE CODE (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 300 of 1949**

**257.669 Certain vehicles to stop at railroad track grade crossing; driver to listen and look in both directions; shifting gears prohibited; exceptions; violation as civil infraction.**

Sec. 669. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2), (3), and (4), the driver of a motor vehicle transporting 16 or more passengers including the driver, a motor vehicle carrying passengers for hire, or a motor vehicle that is required to be marked or placarded under 49 C.F.R. parts 100 to 180 before crossing a railroad track at grade, shall activate the vehicle hazard warning lights and stop the vehicle within 50 feet but not less than 15 feet from the nearest rail. While stopped, the driver shall listen and look in both directions along the track for an approaching train and for signals indicating the approach of a train, and shall not proceed until the driver can do so safely. After stopping as required in this subsection, and upon proceeding when it is safe to do so, the driver of the vehicle shall cross only in a gear of the vehicle that does not require changing gears while traversing the crossing. The driver shall not shift gears while crossing the track or tracks.

(2) A stop need not be made at a railroad track grade crossing where a police officer or a traffic-control signal directs traffic to proceed.

(3) A stop need not be made at an abandoned railroad track grade crossing. As used in this subsection, "abandoned railroad track" means a railroad track which meets all of the following requirements:

- (i) The track has been abandoned pursuant to federal law.
- (ii) The track has been covered or removed.
- (iii) All signs, signals, and other warning devices are removed.

(4) A stop shall not be made at an industrial or spur line railroad grade crossing marked with a sign reading "exempt". Exempt signs may be erected only by or with the consent of the state transportation department after notice to and an opportunity to be heard by all railroads operating over that industrial or spur line.

(5) A person who violates this section is responsible for a civil infraction.

**History:** 1949, Act 300, Eff. Sept. 23, 1949;—Am. 1965, Act 235, Imd. Eff. July 21, 1965;—Am. 1967, Act 99, Eff. Sept. 1, 1967;—Am. 1978, Act 510, Eff. Aug. 1, 1979;—Am. 1978, Act 612, Imd. Eff. Jan. 6, 1979;—Am. 1988, Act 383, Eff. Apr. 1, 1989;—Am. 1990, Act 188, Eff. Aug. 15, 1990;—Am. 1995, Act 248, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1995;—Am. 2002, Act 534, Eff. Oct. 1, 2002.